

The President's Daily Brief

29 July 1969

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Top Secret^{50X1}

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

Hanoi has denounced President Nixon's remarks in Guam on 25 July by selecting portions which fit easily into the mold of routine Communist propaganda. An article in the party daily Nhan Dan on 29 July characterized the President's references to a post-Vietnam role for the US in Asia as an indication that the US intends to perpetuate a policy of trying to "dominate" the region. The article described the President's policy as one of pitting Asians against Asians in a "crusade" against Communist countries. It claimed that Saigon, Manila, and Bangkok would willingly lend themselves to such American schemes.

The Communists only obliquely took note of the President's response to a question about a possible scaling down of US military action in South Vietnam. The paper charged that the President tried to give an impression that the US was willing to stop the war promptly, but that "people" were asking what he had done to bring about a solution to the Vietnam problem. Nhan Dan also made the familiar claim that the US was in fact stepping up the pace of the war and that it had failed to respond "seriously" to the Communists' ten-point program. It said the US still "eludes" the two key problems: stopping the war and withdrawing all troops without conditions, and ceasing support of the GVN and letting the South Vietnamese reach a political settlement through elections.

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SOVIET AFFAIRS

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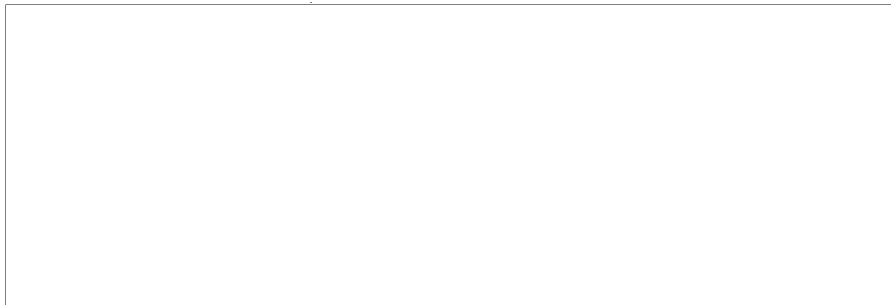


MIDDLE EAST

Disturbed by the danger to his observers posed by the rising tempo of military activity along the Suez Canal, General Bull has ordered the temporary closing of two of the 18 UN posts along the canal. He plans to close four more if security conditions do not improve.

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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

NIGERIA

The Nigerian federal government will be sending a delegation to see Pope Paul after he arrives in Uganda on Thursday, and we suspect a Biafran delegation will turn up as well. Neither side shows any inclination to alter its basic demands, however, and we do not think much will come of the Pope's efforts to get peace negotiations started.

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